

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00
SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 MCT-01 DHA-02 AID-05
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SP-02 OC-06 OPR-02 PA-02 USSS-00 PRS-01 SCA-01
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AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY
AMCONSUL KARACHI IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL LAHORE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
CINCPAC

UNCLAS ISLAMABAD 3960

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PK, PINT
SUBJ: MARTIAL LAW IN THREE PAKISTAN CITIES

REF: ISLAMABAD 3958

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF GOP PRESS NOTE ISSUED EVENING APRIL 21
ANNOUNCING IMPOSITION OF MARTIAL LAW IN KARACHI.
HYDERABAD, AND LAHORE:

" THE COUNTRY IS FACING GRAVE DANGER DUE TO INTERNAL
DISTURBANCES. THESE DISTURBANCES HAVE ASSUMED SUCH
PROPORTIONS THAT THEY ARE BEYOND THE RESOURCES OF THE
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS TO CONTROL. DURING THE LAST SEVERAL
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WEEKS, UNLAWFUL AND VIOLENT AGITATION HAS DISRUPTED THE
PUBLIC LIFE. THIS HAS CAUSED INCALCULABLE DAMAGE.
THERE HAS BEEN TRAGIC AND HEAVY TOLL OF HUMAN LIFE. PUBLIC
AND PRIVATE PROPERTY WORTH MILLION OF RUPEES HAVE BEEN
WANTONLY DESTROYED. TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS
HAVE BEEN SERIOUSLY AFFECTED. A CRIPPLING BLOW HAS BEEN
DEALT TO THE NATION'S ECONOMY. THE CITIZEN'S NORMAL
PURSUITS HAVE BEEN GRAVELY AFFECTED. ALL EFFORTS TO RESOLVE

THE POLITICAL PROBLEMS THROUGH PEACEFUL AND LEGAL MEANS HAVE BEEN THWARTED BY THOSE WHO APPEAR BENT ON SUBVERTING THE CONSTITUTION AND THE PROCESSES ENVISAGED BY IT. THE EVIDENT OBJECT IS TO CREATE A VOID IN LAWFULLY CONSTITUTED AUTHORITY AND INSTITUTIONS SO THAT ANARCHY IS LET LOOSE AND THE FUTURE OF ORGANISED NATIONAL LIFE IS IRREPARABLY DESTROYED.

" THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CANNOT PERMIT THIS SITUATION TO CONTINUE. IT HAS TO DISCHARGE ITS CONSTITUTIONAL OBLIGATION TO PROTECT THE PROVINCES AGAINST THE INTERNAL DISTURBANCES. THE CONSTITUTION IMPOSES THE DUTY ON THE GOVERNMENT TO PROTECT THE LIFE, HONOUR AND PROPERTY OF LAW-ABIDING CITIZENS.

" FOR THESE REASONS. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT EXERCISING ITS CONSTITUTIONAL POWERS, HAS DIRECTED THE ARMED FORCES OF PAKISTAN TO ACT IN AID OF CIVIL POWER. CONSEQUENTLY, MARTIAL LAW HAS BEEN IMPOSED IN THE FIRST INSTANCE IN KARACHI DIVISION, HYDERABAD DISTRICT AND LAHORE DISTRICT WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT. THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS OF SIND AND PUNJAB HAVE PLACED THESE AREAS UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE ARMED FORCES OF PAKISTAN WHO WILL EXERCISE EXCLUSIVE JURISDICTION AND AUTHORITY IN THESE AREAS FOR ENFORCEMENT OF LAW AND MAINTENANCE OF PUBLIC ORDER. THE PAKISTAN ARMY ACT HAS BEEN AMENDED ACCORDINGLY. THE ARMED FORCES ARE NOW IMPOWERED TO SET UP COURTS FOR THE EXPEDITIOUS TRIAL AND PUNISHMENT OF OFFENDERS IN THESE UNCLASSIFIED

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AREAS AND THEY HAVE ALSO BEEN DELEGATED POWERS BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO ACT UNDER THE DEFENCE OF PAKISTAN ORDINANCE AND RULES.

" THE PRESIDENT HAS ISSUED A PROCLAMATION DECLARING THAT A GRAVE EMERGENCY EXISTS AND THE SECURITY OF PAKISTAN IS THREATENED BY INTERNAL DISTURBANCES. CONSEQUENTLY HE HAS VARIED THE EXISTING PROCLAMATION OF EMERGENCY.

" ADDITIONALLY, THE PRESIDENT HAS ISSUED AN ORDER DECLARING THAT THE RIGHT TO MOVE ANY COURT FOR THE ENFORCEMENT OF FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS SPECIFIED IN THE ORDER SHALL REMAIN SUSPENDED IN RELATION TO THESE AREAS." BYROADE

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